

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 December 2017

Statement from: Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Healthy Minds Lincolnshire (Emotional Wellbeing Service)

Healthy Minds Lincolnshire is a new service to support the emotional wellbeing needs of children and young people in Lincolnshire. The service commenced on 1 October 2017 and is delivered by Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) via a Partnership Agreement led by the Council, which runs until 30 September 2020 with the option to extend for up to a further two years.

It is a countywide service and is available to all Lincolnshire young people up to the age of 19 (or up to 25 if they are SEND or a care leaver), and their families. The service focuses on early intervention, promoting resilience and the prevention of emotional wellbeing concerns escalating to mental health issues.

Qualified practitioners will work with young people who are experiencing emotional wellbeing concerns and who do not meet the eligibility for other available services, thus impacting on their ability to thrive. Advice, guidance and signposting is also available to parents/carers and professionals supporting children with emotional wellbeing concerns.

Healthy Minds Lincolnshire also works closely with other services – particularly CAMHS, the new Children's Health Service 0-19, the online counselling service (KOOOTH) and relevant adult services – ensuring there are seamless pathways for Lincolnshire children and young people and they receive timely support from the best placed professional.

A new online Emotional Wellbeing/Behaviour Pathway has been developed to support public and professionals to access or refer to the most appropriate services more easily. Young people, parents/carers and professionals can go to www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/ewb to view self-help information and identify relevant national and local support services, ensuring that they access the right service at the right time.

Joint Diversionary Panels

In June 2017 the initial launch of the Lincolnshire Joint Diversionary Panel (JDP) commenced. The panels were established to directly address the number of children and young people within Lincolnshire entering the formal criminal justice system. The panel is a multi-agency collaboration and is supported by the Youth Offending Service, Lincolnshire Police and Early Help.

The panels provide a weekly forum to consider how best to support all young people engaging in criminal behaviour at the earliest opportunity but with an additional focus on looked after children. The panel objectives are also designed to avoid the longer term implications for children of acquiring a criminal conviction. The panel is also underpinned by a restorative approach to ensure that victims of crime are fully considered.

The early indicators and outcomes from the panel are extremely positive and are demonstrating excellent multi-agency working, swift information sharing and a significant usage of restorative outcomes to divert children away from the formal criminal system. To date, as a direct consequence of the panel process more than thirty young people have been diverted outside the formal criminal justice system who otherwise would have become first time entrants or attended court.

A number of the cases successfully diverted were looked after children and therefore these panels demonstrate a commitment in Lincolnshire, wherever possible, to avoid the criminalisation of children and offer timely and effective support to ensure better outcomes for their future.

Pupil Place Planning

We continue to successfully deliver new school places across the county. In April 2017 we secured a £23m Basic Need capital allocation for 2019/20 towards providing additional school places across the county. By September 2020 over £90m will have been invested into Lincolnshire schools since 2011 to ensure that there are sufficient primary and secondary school places to meet the needs of local communities. This will include the opening of the new Grantham Poplar Farm 420 place primary school for September 2018.

Creating enough school places ensures that parents and carers can secure a local school place for their children. Almost all parents now apply online for their child's school place when starting primary or secondary school for the first time. For these admissions, despite rising pupil numbers, 9 out of 10 parents still get their first choice school; this is in line with regional figures and better than the national average.

Special Schools Project

The Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy has been co-produced by Children's Services, all Special School Head Teachers and Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum, who have worked in collaboration to create a vision of SEND education for pupils with additional needs.

The strategy will:

"Establish an integrated school system where children and young people get the right health, care and education, in the right place, at the right time, as close as possible to where they live."

The strategic vision of this integrated school system will provide the foundations for:

"Provision without boundaries: where children feel they belong, are respected, hopeful and optimistic about their future."

This strategy proposes to make significant changes to our existing specialist education provision, creating an integrated system where pupils attend their nearest school, confident their educational and health needs can be fully met. Where they have full access to a curriculum which is appropriate for their learning needs and are taught by teaching staff who are skilled in the learning profiles of all pupils with SEND.

Over the coming months, a public consultation will be carried out with children and young people, parents, carers and various other stakeholders.

ADULT CARE

Winter ready and DTOC

Each year officers work with Health colleagues to prepare a 'Winter Plan' to ensure people stay as well as possible and all services stand ready. This year the plan has been updated having learnt from previous years, incorporate new national requirements and includes such items as flu campaigns, cold weather planning, Health and care provider's maximising their resources and a robust communications strategy.

Additional Better Care Fund monies have been distributed to support a reduction in Non-elective admissions and Delayed Transfers of Care (or DTOCs) through a number of schemes including HART, operated by Age UK, which supports people to remain and return home, additional capacity building in homecare services, 7 day working for Adult Care staff in hospitals and supporting Urgent Care Streaming in Accident and Emergency.

Adult Care continues to minimise delayed discharges from all hospitals, including those in Community Hospitals and in-patient facilities for Older Adults with Mental Health needs. Delays attributed to adult social care are at 8%, which is much lower than the national figure of 36%. Adult Care remains in the top performing quartile within the comparator Local Authority group.

Workforce

Through the utilisation of Better Care Fund monies additional investment has been made in Area Teams across the Adult Care department. This investment will support the continued development and improvement in service delivery for local residents. Part of this additional resource will be directed towards improving our support to hospitals and the continued growth and development of Neighbourhood Teams with the initial focus on the six phase two sites. Partnership work continues with LINCA (the umbrella organisation for social care providers and many housing providers) to promote, develop and grow the health and care workforce in Lincolnshire aimed at improving recruitment and retention of care workers and, nursing staff in nursing homes.

Lincolnshire Adult Care has been instrumental in developing and hosting a recent conference in Lincoln for Occupational Therapy, with regional attendees from across

health and care. This event included key speakers from national organisations and was extremely well attended and received, raising the profile of therapy services both within Lincolnshire and across the East Midlands.

Better Care Fund

The Lincolnshire Better Care Fund for 2017/18 is £226m of which £54.817m was the national allocation. Lincolnshire's fund is one of the largest in the country and helps us to have some influence on policy development at national level including pooled budgets for Learning Disabilities, CAMHS and Community Equipment plus 'aligned' Mental Health funds from the County Council and the four CCGs.

In addition to the continuation of existing pooled funds, a number of additional funding streams have been allocated as part of the overall £226m total. These increases result from:

- Inflationary increases in CCG funding, and as a result in the CCG funding for the Protection of Adult Care Services.
- The addition of the 'Improved' Better Care Fund (iBCF) funding that was announced in the Chancellor's November 2015 budget totalling £2.105m in 2017/18.
- The announcement of 'iBCF supplementary' funding in the Chancellor's March 2017 budget. This provides an additional £15.265m in 2017/18.

The requirement to ensure that the funding has a positive impact on performance in the areas of Delayed Transfers of Care and Non-Elective Admissions continues to increase. This has been reflected in our thinking and thus in the two year BCF plan that we have agreed with NHS partners.

The resulting Narrative Plan and the related Planning Templates for the years 2017-2019 were submitted to NHS England on 11 September and on 30 October our plans were formally approved without conditions meaning that:

- Our plans have met all national conditions;
- That there is an agreed a spending plan for the IBCF grant
- That we have set out a vision and progress towards fuller integration of health and social care by 2020
- Our plan have been judged as a robust approach to managing risk to plan delivery, including adequate financial risk management arrangements, proportionate to the level of risk in the system.

Work now continues between the Council and the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups to agree the overarching Framework Agreement. This agreement made under section 75 of National Health Services Act 2006 sets out the terms on which the Partners have agreed to collaborate and to establish a framework through which the Partners can secure the future position of health and social care services over the two years that the plan is in place.

Care Quality Commission

Since October 2016 we have seen an improvement in the number of services rated as Good by the Care Quality Commission. There are three services rated as Outstanding (an increase of two since October 2016), 226 rated as good (an increase of 29), 70 are rated as requires improvement (a reduction of 12) and two are rated as inadequate (a reduction of two). The Commercial Team is working closely with these two providers to improve the services as quickly as possible.

In total 76% of services have an overall rating of good and 92% of services are rated as good or outstanding under the category of Caring. Lincolnshire remains above average compared to the rest of the UK. The Commercial Team is focusing its efforts on working with those homes that require improvements. This includes working with providers, the Lincolnshire Care Association, health colleagues and the Care Quality Commission.

Nursing provision continues to be a high priority area with providers across the county reporting difficulties in recruiting and retaining nurses. These difficulties have led to a number of providers deregistering from nursing over the last 2-3 years. Since January 2017, the county has lost 169 nursing beds through homes closing or deregistering.

Both of the homes that are currently rated as inadequate by CQC are registered for nursing and, due to the restrictions placed on one of these providers, a further 80 nursing beds are currently unavailable.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Integrated Children's Commissioning Project

Commissioning of services for children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) has been identified as a priority area for development between the two main commissioners of services: South Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (on behalf of all Lincolnshire CCGs) and Lincolnshire County Council. A project has been agreed which will establish a children's integrated commissioning team (ICCT) to undertake a programme of work focusing on the needs of children and young people with SEND, reviewing services and making recommendations to commission services differently.

Each organisation will retain their own commissioning responsibility, but share the resources needed to develop a comprehensive, consistent approach to understanding needs, agreeing priorities, designing, monitoring and managing the performance and quality of services. It is anticipated that this joint approach to commissioning will improve the services provided to these children and young people and their families.

WellFamily Early Intervention Pilot

A pilot to support families with high levels of need is planned for the Gainsborough area. The WellFamily model is based upon early intervention to prevent escalation of issues and crises from occurring, particularly with disadvantaged and socially

isolated families. The service provides a 'single door' for a wide range of support so that users with complex problems don't need to deal with a number of agencies. It tackles the social problems underpinning medical referrals, offering help at an early stage to prevent more serious problems developing. The service links clients' needs across GPs and other members of the primary care team, schools, social services and other voluntary organisations, joining up care. Key interventions include:

- advice and information regarding housing, debt, welfare benefits or employment support;
- counselling for emotional problems including anxiety, depression, bereavement and relationship difficulties;
- promotion of leisure, social and physical activities and volunteering opportunities;
- signposting and referral to other services; and
- carer and peer support.

Evaluation of the model from other areas of the country has demonstrated a reduction in demand on health and social care services and improved wellbeing of the families involved. Gainsborough has been chosen as the first pilot area based on the profile of need and service usage by families in that area. There is the possibility to extend to other areas of high need in partnership with CCGs over time. The model complements Lincolnshire's Early Help offer, neighbourhood teams, self-care and social prescribing initiatives, supporting the sustainability of support for families in need if the outcomes seen elsewhere are replicated here.

ADULT LEARNING AND SKILLS

There continues to be high demand for Adult Learning provision that increases the skills of people in our communities, giving them new career opportunities and allowing local businesses to recruit the talented employees they need to develop. In the 2017/18 academic year over 950 courses have been planned to work with 6,600 learners delivering 630 qualifications ranging from GCSE English and maths to Food Safety, helping learners to progress into work.

The Family Learning Service has recently undergone the Matrix Accreditation review and is delighted the provision continues to meet the requirements of this quality standard to assess and measure its advice and support services. Strengths that were highlighted during the review include robust Leadership and Management, increased links to employment, high quality learner resources and strong partnerships with schools and the National Careers Service. A learning board is in place, which Councillor David Brailsford is a member of, and the learning board is one of the main reasons why leadership and management was judged so highly.

Moving to wider skills and employment issues, my colleague Councillor Colin Davie and I will be meeting the chairman of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP skills board shortly to agree what LCC and the LEP can do collectively to help young people understand about the excellent careers that are available within the local economy. I recently chaired a meeting with Councillors Fido, Boles, and Maugham about how they might be able to support some of this initiative and I look forward to working with them on it.